

cover story



videos



Nia Long



Class of 3000



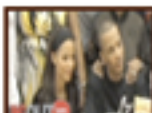
Columbus Short



Laura Izibor



Gorilla Zoe



Saving our Daughters

v.i.p. photos

Style Your Mind

## Wendy Wagner Founder, [WendyWagner.com/Qwerkys.com](http://WendyWagner.com/Qwerkys.com)

eye-popping visuals



Wendy Wagner, is one half of the dynamic duo that created Qwerkys, a collection of adorable and humorous creatures. The confident entrepreneur continues to take center stage as a leader in her field. The Houston native is a full-time artist who enjoys animation, ceramics and paintings. "All of the characters have these quirky personality traits," shares Wagner about the 10 plush, hand-stitched creatures.

Sharing a passion for art and design with her husband and business partner, Kenneth Finch, Wagner relied on his vision and foresight to transform creative concepts into reality. A successful branding expert with his own creative firm for over 25 years, Finch is uniquely qualified to critique and make recommendations regarding Wagner's creations. He also has the know-how and skills to help develop the commercial draw for her work. Together they formed a collaborative team that tapped his entrepreneurial acumen and propelled her artwork to a new level.

"It was amazing. Honestly, I didn't expect it at all. I've been doing art professionally [for] 20 years. To get the recognition was amazing. The level of talent in this group of finalists was very high caliber work," shares Wagner about winning the Hunting Art Prize for her painting, "I Hope I'm Dreaming." The Texas statewide competition garnered her \$10,000.

Wagner has been exhibiting locally and nationally for more than five years, earning a loyal following of adults and children. She enjoys teaching high school students through Houston's Museum of Fine Arts, and also works in schools with student writers, teaching character building classes. She has an exhibition set for June in Tokyo. —staff writer